

## City of Casper receives 2003 Pro Patria Award

*Out-going State Chairman, Jim McHugh, also received an award during the Wyoming ESGR annual banquet in September.*

Casper city government was recognized for its employment policies benefiting city employees deployed for military duty by the Wyoming Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The Pro Patria Award is awarded annually to the most outstanding military service employer within Wyoming. Casper Mayor Barbara Peryam and City

Manager Thomas Forslund accepted the award on behalf of the city.

ESGR became aware of the city's supportive policies when Sgt. 1st Class Dean Welch nominated his supervisor for a "My Boss is a Patriot" award.

The MBIAP allows National Guard and Reserve

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Brig. Gen. Art Dillon, assistant adjutant general for the Wyoming Army National Guard presents the Pro Patria Award to Casper Mayor Barbara Peryam and Casper City Manager Thomas Forslund.



Rex Hood, ESGR deputy director, presents Jim McHugh with the prestigious Secretary of Defense Outstanding Public Service Award.

## Cowley appointed as Wyo. ESGR state chairwoman

Janet Cowley, a 12-year Wyoming ESGR committee member and long-time military advocate from Cheyenne, began her tenure as state chairwoman for the Wyoming ESGR committee Oct. 1.

She was appointed by Maj. Gen. Ed Boenisch, Wyoming's former adjutant general, to succeed Jim McHugh.

"I look forward to working with the highly committed group of volunteers we have on the committee," Cowley said. "Employer support is more important than ever and I know together we can ensure Wyoming's employers and their military employees continue to work together as a team."

Cowley is the director of convention sales for the Cheyenne Convention Center and Visitors Bureau.

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## Exciting changes ahead for ESGR

By Janet Cowley,  
Wyoming ESGR State Chairwoman

Change ... I've been bemoaning the changes that have occurred in the leadership of our Wyoming Military Department, we've bemoaned the changes of our mission in ESGR. But we can all rest easy.

The leadership of the Wyoming Military Department is stronger and more insightful than ever. And, the leadership at the national level of ESGR is doing everything they can to make sure each state committee is properly funded and armed with the information and materials we need to do our jobs.

What we, as a committee need to do now is position ourselves for the future. We need you to look within your community and at people who are already on the ESGR committee to help us with employer outreach and other volunteer tasks. Employer outreach will only be one portion of our mission. The relationship we have with our National Guard and Reserve units will continue to be important to our committee.

We will have an outstanding program for our February committee meeting in Casper. I urge each and every one of you to make Feb. 20-21 a "can't miss" meeting. Let Deidre know as soon as possible if you can attend. She needs to request orders before Jan. 22.

One of the metaphors used at the Colorado Springs conference was that of turning a battleship. One doesn't simply change the direction of a battleship and see direct results in a short period of time. Although our ESGR battleship has changed course, we are just beginning to see the bow of the ship turn.

It will take time to make this course change but with good planning and the fine people our Wyoming Committee has on board, we'll handle the turn with grace and style, as always.



**Chairwoman's  
Corner**

## Wyo. governor proclaims National ESGR Week

In the presence of Wyoming ESGR committee members, National Guard and Reserve commanders, and local civic leaders, Gov. Dave Freudenthal proclaimed Nov. 16-22 National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

Freudenthal joined President George Bush and the other 53 state and territorial governors who signed similar proclamations.

In the proclamation, Freudenthal urged Wyoming residents to "join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the civilian employers of the members of the National Guard and Reserve for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our state."

The proclamation will hang at the Pentagon.

## Wyoming Guard soldier killed



Capt. Robert Lucero

Wyoming Army National Guard Capt. Robert Lucero was killed in Tikrit, Iraq Sept. 25 when he encountered an improvised explosive device.

Lucero, 34, was serving with the Wyoming Army National Guard's 4th Infantry Division Rear Operations Center (ROC) at the time of his

death.

He was a member of the 2-300th Field Artillery before deploying with the ROC in January.

Lucero is survived by his wife, Sherry; mother Lois Ann Wright; Merrill Weikum, the man he called "Dad;" sisters Alexa-Ann Lucero and Kimberly Ann Weikum; and in-laws Richard and Della Bingham.

Services were held in Casper on Oct. 7.

### **Wyoming Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve**

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## Briefly speaking

### Upcoming events

- Feb. 9: Opening day of Wyoming Legislature budget session

- Feb. 20-21: Steering Committee meeting, new member orientation and training, Casper

- May 21-22: Steering Committee meeting, Lander

- June 9-11: National Bosslift, Pensacola, Fla.

- Sept. 26-27: Annual awards banquet and all-committee meeting, Cheyenne

- Wyoming Army National Guard SRP dates for the upcoming year are as follows:

- Jan. 9-11, Worland

- March 12-14, Sheridan

Please contact Deidre if you can volunteer to work the ESGR table for all or part of the SRPs.

### Information

- Clarence Hall** announced his retirement as Area 2 Chairman at the Sept. meeting. Hall was an ESGR volunteer for more than 18 years.

- Ted Durante** agreed to be the committee's chairman for a new area, Area 12. Area 12 encompasses the Army National Guard and Naval Reserve units in Cheyenne. Due to the large number of units in Cheyenne the area was split in half. Area 10 will remain in Cheyenne and cover the Wyoming Air National Guard. **Ed Janay** has agreed to chair that area.

- The Wyoming ESGR committee welcomes new members **LaVertha Gotier, Mary Carroll, Dave Lopez, Jim Marosok, and Bob Rowland**. These volunteers will be valuable additions to an already dynamic committee.

- Wyoming's ESGR ombudsman, **Don Erickson**, has agreed to take on another role in the committee. He is the training coordinator for Wyoming ESGR volunteers. The new duties are in addition to his ombudsman duties. His first training session will be a part of the February meeting.

- Cheyenne's Naval Reserve personnel are preparing to move onto F.E. Warren Air Force Base in January. **Lt. Commander Sean Brogan** said the biggest advantage to moving onto the base is for force protection concerns.

## Strength of Wyo. ESGR is its volunteers

By Maj. Gen. Ed Wright,  
Wyoming's Adjutant General



### A note from the TAG

One of the things I looked forward to when I was appointed as Wyoming's adjutant general in May was working with the group of ESGR volunteers around the state.

As a traditional Army National Guard soldier for the last 23 years, I know the value the committee has to every traditional soldier, airmen and sailor in the state.

I strongly believe the committee is an important part of our organization.

More and more of our soldiers and airmen are being deployed. Consequently, more and more of our Wyoming employers are losing their employees for 30, 45, 90 and 120 days, or even a year or more.

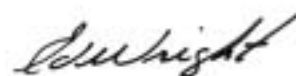
Your interaction with unit members and employers is a key to ensuring a successful mission. Without the support and understanding of employers our National Guard and Reserve personnel could not be effective forces in our nation's continuing war against terrorism.

My office and staff remain at your service to help you reach our military personnel and their commanders.

I have expressed that commitment to the National Guard command staff and have been assured they too believe in the ESGR mission and will assist in any way possible.

Janet Cowley and I also are beginning the process to hire a full-time federal contract employee to assist the ESGR committee with employer outreach activities, administrative and other duties, as necessary.

We believe an employee assisting the Wyoming ESGR committee will only augment the outstanding job the committee's volunteers are already doing.



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# Wanted: 30 employers for Bosslift

*Bosslift scheduled for June 9-11.*

Pensacola, Fla. is the next scheduled Wyoming ESGR National Bosslift. On June 9 30 Wyoming National Guard and Reserve civilian employers will get a chance to travel, via Wyoming Air National Guard C-130, to learn about the U.S. Navy.

Early in the bosslift planning process there was some confusion as to where Wyoming would go in 2004.

"Originally we were told to plan for a Dallas, Texas bosslift in March," said Master Sgt. Randy Roberts, Wyoming ESGR bosslift coordinator. "Once we began planning that itinerary, we discovered National ESGR had scheduled us for Florida instead."

Sample agendas sent to Roberts ensure the Wyoming employers will be seeing, and participating in, a flurry of activities.

He is working to include an IMAX theater stop to view "The Magic of Flight," a movie guaranteed to make the audience feel like they are inside the cockpit.

Hopes are high the group will be able to stay in

billeting at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. Not only will that dramatically cut the cost of the bosslift, it will provide employers with another exciting experience.

Other activities may include a behind the scenes look at flight physiology training, water survival training and some time on a flight simulator.

"The bosslift experience is a great way for civilian employers to become more acquainted with the military," said Janet Cowley, Wyoming ESGR state chairwoman. "We may not be visiting Wyoming military personnel, but we are learning more about how they train and interact with other military organizations."

Any Wyoming ESGR committee member can nominate someone to attend the bosslift. Attendees will be asked to cover their lodging and meal costs. The bosslift typically runs between \$175 and \$350, depending on lodging costs. Nominations, which need to include contact information for the employer, can be emailed to Roberts at [randy.roberts@wy.ngb.army.mil](mailto:randy.roberts@wy.ngb.army.mil).

## McHugh receives Secretary of Defense medal

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personnel to award their supervisors or company for supporting their military commitments. Other MBIAP awards, as well as numerous "Seven Seals" and an "Above and Beyond" award were presented during the banquet, held at F.E. Warren Air Force Base's Trails End Club.

Jim McHugh, ESGR state chairman, presented the awards before he was presented with an award as out-going state chairman.

Rex Hood, ESGR deputy director for the South Central Region, and previous state chair Ralph Lyons, presented McHugh with the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

The award recognized McHugh's unwavering support for the military and his ceaseless actions to ensure civilian employers were informed, educated and supportive of their National Guard and Reserve employees.

Employers also received awards at the annual

banquet. Dr. Edith Wilson, a Cheyenne physician, was awarded the "My Boss is a Patriot" award. Alfonso Herrera received an "Above and Beyond" award for supporting recent deployments. Herrera works for EchoStar in Cheyenne.

ESGR supporters also were awarded with "Seven Seals" and "Above and Beyond" awards.

Jamie Ciz, the adjutant general's executive assistant, outgoing Bosslift coordinator Tim Fisher, committee members Pam Crochet and Ed Janay all received "Seven Seals" awards for their support.

Patrick Macy, a reservist at the U.S. Naval Reserve in Cheyenne, received an "Above and Beyond" award for his assistance with a number of deployment-related issues.

Although she was unable to attend the banquet, Area 8 Chairwoman Barb Monfre received the "Spirit of Volunteerism" award. Casper Mayor Barbara Peryam promised to present it to Monfre as soon as possible.

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